

Summarizing vs. Paraphrasing: What's the difference?

*They are both techniques used to incorporate other writers' works or ideas into your writing—using your own words.

Summarizing:

Summarizing is the tool in writing which ***is used when you need the main idea of the text.*** It is a ***condensed form*** of the writing in your own words with only “highlights” of the text. ***A summary is much shorter than the original text.*** It excludes the explanation of the text. Only the main idea of the basic information of the text is included. It is ***used when you want to draw attention to an important point.***

Summarizing is used:

- When only the main ideas of the writer are to be identified.
- When only an overview of the whole work is required.
- When simplification is required.
- When only the main highlights of the work have to be mentioned.

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is reading over a text and interpreting it in one's own words without changing the meaning of the original text. It is like grabbing the idea about a topic from another writer's work then transforming it into your own method of thoughts and words. Paraphrased material is ***almost equal to or slightly shorter in comparison to the original*** material since the ***purpose is to rephrase without leaving out anything important.*** Paraphrasing is required sometimes to prove your point. It ***provides support and adds credibility*** to your own writing. It is also used to add depth to your work.

Paraphrasing is used:

- When another writer's work has to be used.
- When the ideas have a greater relevance than in the style of the writing.
- When you want to simplify the work of another person; ***when you think that the words of the writer are too difficult for your readers***

Ways to avoid plagiarism when paraphrasing:

- Use a signal or identifying phrase that tells who and what you are paraphrasing
- **Use the same ideas as in the original text**
- Use your own words when phrasing. In most cases, avoid using any of the same wording that the author used unless you put a key term in quotation marks.
- Add an intext (parenthetical) reference at the end of the paraphrase.
 - Include a citation at the end of your paper (Works Cited).

Paraphrasing: Instructions & Examples

How to Paraphrase:

- 1) Read the original passage carefully.
 - a. Define any words that are unknown. Continue to study, analyze and/or reread it until you are able to fully grasp the entire understanding of its content.
- 2) Identify any key terms.
- 3) Use your own language and sentence structure to restate (paraphrase) the section, generally keeping the same length of the original. To do this, you may need to work sentence-by-sentence.
- 4) Include all important ideas from the original passage to preserve the author's original meaning.
- 5) Cite the source.

Original Passage #1:

Of the more than 1000 bicycling deaths each year, three-fourths are caused by head injuries. Half of those killed are school-age children. One study concluded that wearing a bike helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent. In an accident, a bike helmet absorbs the shock and cushions the head. From "Bike Helmets: Unused Lifesavers," Consumer Reports (May 1990): 348.

Paraphrased Passage #1:

The use of a helmet is the key to reducing bicycling fatalities, which are due to head injuries 75% of the time. By cushioning the head upon impact, a helmet can reduce accidental injury by as much as 85%, saving the lives of hundreds of victims annually, half of whom are school children ("Bike Helmets" 348).

Original Passage #2:

"In the current paper we will be examining responses to a particular type of imposter; the vegetarian who eats meat. We chose this example because the core norm of the vegetarian is very clear (to not eat meat), and violation of the norm is easily recognized" (Hornsey and Jetten, p. 641).

Paraphrased Passage #2:

Hornsey and Jetten (2003) investigated group responses to impostors. For the purposes of their study, the impostors were defined as vegetarians who go against the norm by eating meat. The "violation of the norm" in this particular situation is easily noticed (Hornsey and Jetten, p. 641). 1

Original passage #3:

Annie Oakley's life spanned years of tremendous change for American women. By the time of her death in 1926, Americans were celebrating the liberated, urban focused, modern times of the Jazz Age. Women had won the right to vote, wore less restrictive clothes, and followed a changing ideal that was loosening some of the restrictions on women's roles and behavior that had reigned through the nineteenth century.

Paraphrased Passage #3:

Annie Oakley lived through a period of many liberating changes for women. By the time she died there were many new changes for women's rights. Examples include voting rights for women as well as the freedom to wear comfortable and practical clothing (Annie Oakley).